REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1, 3, 4, 7 and 8 will have been amended while claim 10 will have been canceled. Claim 11 will have been submitted for consideration. In addition, several portions of the specification will have been amended to eliminate minor typographic informalities.

In view of the herein contained amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection and an indication to such effect in due course.

Initially, Applicants wish to respectfully thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants Claim for Priority and for confirming receipt of the certified copy of the priority document. Additionally, Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for returning the PTO-1449 Forms attached to the Information Disclosure Statements filed in the present application on August 16, 2002 and April 17, 2002 confirming consideration of the documents cited therein. Finally, Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that the drawings filed with the present application on February 27, 2002 have been accepted by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by MIYAZAWA et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,809,354). Applicants

respectfully traverse the above rejection and submit that it is clearly not appropriate with respect to newly submitted claim 11.

According to the disclosure of MIYAZAWA et al., the camera body identifies the type of photographing lens by virtue of the information LIDC as shown in Fig. 9 and as described at column 11, lines 1 and 2. However, LIDC is not disclosed to perform any other function other then identifying the type of photographing lens, as noted above.

In direct contrast, as recited in claim 11, the photographing lens includes a memory that stores information regarding the type of the photographing lens. In particular, and with respect to a disclosed embodiment of the present invention, the type of photographing lens data is stored in lens ROM 221. The lens type information is transmitted to the camera body through an old type communication as shown in Fig. 8A at step CS201. Such lens type information is transmitted before communication between the body controller and the lens controller begins. However, when the camera body detects and identifies a photographing lens (KAF III lens) which can perform communication between the body controller and the lens controller, the body-lens communication is performed as disclosed with respect to Fig. 8A at step CS203. In other words, the lens controller (i.e., CPU 111 in the disclosed embodiment) does not output information on the type of a photographing lens. Rather, this information is stored in lens memory and is output therefrom.

According to the features of the present invention, the body controller reads the information regarding the type of the lens from the memory, identifies the type of photographing lens and then initiates communication between the body controller and the lens controller. It is respectfully submitted that at least the above-noted features of Applicants' invention, as recited in claim 11, are not taught, disclosed nor rendered obvious by the MIYAZAWA et al. reference relied upon by the Examiner. As a result of such communication between the lens controller and the body controller, the lens controller receives body data and individual function data from the body controller, as recited in claim 11.

According to the teachings of the present invention, the communication identification process identifies the type of photographing lens and the communication protocols used with respect thereto. At first, an old type communication process is performed, as illustrated in step CS103 of Fig. 8A. As a result, whether the photographing lens is mounted to the camera body is provided with a lens ROM, from which predetermined lens data can be read by the body CPU, or whether the lens mounted to the body is not provided with such a lens ROM is determined. If the currently mounted photographing lens has such a lens ROM, appropriate communication utilizing the appropriate protocol is performed. At the completion of such lens ROM communication, and based upon the result of such communication, whether the currently mounted lens is of a new type is determined, as shown

in step CS203 of Fig. 8A. If the currently mounted lens is determined to be of a new type, the precise type of the lens is identified. On the other hand, if the new type photographing lens is not currently mounted, only old type communication (i.e., lens ROM communication) is performed between the lens and the camera body.

The combination of features recited in Applicants' claim 11 are clearly not taught, disclosed nor rendered obvious by MIYAZAWA et al. In particular, MIYAZAWA et al. does not teach that the type of lens is determined based on information stored in a memory and that a body controller which communicates with the lens controller reads the information regarding the lens type from the memory, identifies the type of lens and starts communication between the lens controller and the body controller, wherein the lens controller receives body data and individual function data from the body controller.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection applied against claim 10, which has been rewritten as claim 11 as noted above.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding rejection and an indication of the allowability of all the claims pending in the present application, in due course.

Applicants note the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter. In this regard, while Applicants do not disagree with any of the reasons set

forth by the Examiner, Applicants further point out that each of the claims in the present application recites a combination of features and that the patentability of each claim is also based upon the particular combination of features recited therein. Accordingly, the reasons for allowance should not be limited to those features noted by the Examiner.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

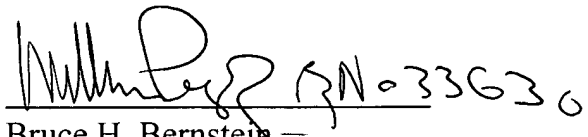
Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so. Applicants have canceled the sole rejected claim and have submitted a new claim directed to the same features of the present invention. With respect to the features of the newly submitted claim, Applicants have discussed the disclosure of the reference relied upon by the Examiner and have pointed out the significant and substantial shortcomings thereof. Applicants have discussed the features of Applicants' invention and have contrasted the same with the disclosure of the reference cited by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants have provided a clear evidentiary basis supporting the patentability of all the claims in the present application and respectfully request an indication to such effect in due course.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be

considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this Response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Yukio UENAKA et al.



Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

December 24, 2003
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191